

he announced Monday that he will move to senior status starting next year. Judge Gerrard's impressive career has spanned more than four decades, and it is not over yet. After his successor is confirmed, he will remain on the bench with a reduced caseload.

Judge Gerrard is a native Nebraskan. He grew up in Schuyler and attended Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. He left the good life, temporarily, to pursue an MPA at the University of Arizona and a JD at the University of the Pacific in California.

I am grateful that he came home to Nebraska after law school. In 1981, Judge Gerrard began his career in private practice in Norfolk. A year later, he also began serving as a part-time city attorney for the neighboring community of Battle Creek. That was the start of 40 years and counting of selfless public service.

In 1995, he was appointed to the Nebraska Supreme Court by then-Governor Ben Nelson. He was just 41 years old at the time, making him the youngest-ever Nebraska Supreme Court Justice.

After more than 15 years on our State's highest court, he was nominated by President Obama to the Federal judgeship he holds now in 2011, serving as chief judge for 3 of those years.

At every turn, Judge Gerrard has used his respect for the law to advance the greater good of Nebraskans and all Americans. During his time on the bench, I have appreciated hearing his views about many pressing judicial matters. His perspective as a sentencing judge has also been crucial in helping me to unpack how proposed legislation in Congress would affect Federal judges.

It has been an honor to know Judge Gerrard and to work with him for over a decade. He is an accomplished, skilled, and respected jurist, and I am glad that he has chosen to continue his service after moving to senior status.

Everyone who knows Judge Gerrard can attest that his wisdom extends far beyond the law. He has never failed to impress me with his keen observations about life. He is a good man with a servant's heart, and I am proud to call him a friend.

On behalf of all Nebraskans, I would like to thank him for his four decades of dedicated public service. I look forward to working with President Biden to confirm a district court judge who will live up to Judge Gerrard's legacy of ruling fairly in accordance with the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RED CROSS NATIONAL BLOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, last month, the American Red Cross began sounding the alarm on a national blood crisis, the first they have ever declared. COVID-19 has added extra volatility to the blood supply, and this shortage strains hospitals and patient care throughout America.

We continue to face that critical blood supply shortage today, with Kansas's blood supply standing at a 1- to 2-day inventory.

I have heard from medical professionals—doctors, nurses, others in Kansas about the tough decisions rural doctors and healthcare providers are having to make, including canceling surgeries, blood transfusions, and possibly not delivering babies because bleeding complications may require blood that these facilities just don't have.

My hometown of Plainville, KS, has a population of about 2,000. We are fortunate to have a county hospital with dedicated healthcare professionals and physicians. One of my hometown physicians, Dr. Sanchez, who I am told is not on Facebook very often but posted his plea—his plea for people to donate blood.

Dr. Sanchez's Facebook post says—this is his story: Today we had to tell a patient with heart disease that the blood transfusions that had prolonged his life with marked improvement in quality could no longer happen at Rooks County Health Center. My patient and his son were understandably upset. It just so happens that the same patient was told a few days previous that the melanoma cancer that he beat for 40 years back returned. And now no blood transfusion.

The doctor said that the hospital is considering canceling surgeries, possibly even not delivering babies. Our stock of common blood type A-positive and donor O-positive blood units are down over 30 percent, from six units to four units. Universal donor O-negative blood has been in short supply for months and maybe for years. Blood supplies are usually replenished at the American Red Cross every 3 weeks, but we have had no new units given or replaced.

That is one doctor, one hometown, one hospital—but it is people. It is people in Kansas. It is people in this country whom we know and care for, people we love, people in our families, and people we don't even know.

The most vulnerable patients among us rely on blood donations for transfusions to support essential treatments such as those of battling cancer or living with chronic diseases. There is no substitute. There is no alternative.

Our Nation can turn to the absence of blood donations. The only answer is for each of us stepping up to donate, helping to end this crisis and contribute to saving lives of those in our communities.

The shortage is severe, and it is affecting Kansas health providers and

their ability to care for their patients. It will cost us lives.

Kansans pull together in times of need, and I encourage everyone in Kansas and across the country to donate. In the United States, every 2 seconds someone needs blood or platelets, and donating blood is one of the most tangible actions we can give to help save lives.

Donation centers provide specific guidance on blood donation process and safety measures taken within their centers. You can find a location that is accepting blood donations near you, and you can visit the American Red Cross website.

So this is a plea that we all consider donating blood to help save the lives of our friends, our neighbors, and our fellow Americans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DON NEAGLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, after more than six decades as a staple of Logan County radio, Don Neagle is retiring this year. As the host of the WRUS morning show and the "Feedback" program, Don brings high-quality news to his community, interviewing everyone from politicians, to writers, to theologians. As one local leader put it so aptly, Don is Logan County's "bulletin board," relaying all of his community's most important news in one place. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Don in his retirement.

For decades, Don arrived at his office every weekday at 4:15 am, preparing the day's news while most listeners were still fast asleep. By the time Logan County residents were on their morning commute, he was already halfway through his workday. Through his incredible work ethic and scrappy style, Don stayed ahead of breaking news and at the pinnacle of Kentucky journalism.

Don is a legendary interviewer, and his "Feedback" show is the highlight of WRUS's entire programming lineup. Any leader in Kentucky government, myself included, knows that it's basically a requirement to be interviewed

by Don when visiting Logan County. I have had the pleasure of speaking to him many times, and it is always an enlightening conversation full of informed, probing questions.

Don's calm, constant voice has earned him many fans across the Commonwealth. He joined the Kentucky Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 2006, demonstrating that his influence reaches far beyond Logan County's borders. While his skill brought him acclaim from around Kentucky, he never strayed in his commitment to his Logan County home. Don's career was more than just a job; he formed a deep bond with Logan County, and even after six decades, he seems loath to give it up.

Though Don is taking a step back from his expansive role at WRUS, he will remain at the station for the time being as host of "Feedback" and an occasional guest interviewer. In the meantime, he will have more time to spend with his two daughters, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He will also be able to pursue his favorite lifelong pastime, reading, with new gusto.

In honor of Don's retirement, I would like to thank him for his service to the Commonwealth and unflagging loyalty to strong local journalism. He has delivered an invaluable service to Logan County residents for more than 60 years, and we will all miss his ever-present voice.

Mr. President, Bowling Green Daily News paid tribute to Don's career in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Bowling Green Daily News, Jan. 31, 2022]

'VOICE OF LOGAN COUNTY' ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Logan County residents have trusted Don Neagle as their source of news for more than 63 years. But on Jan. 27, the hall of fame broadcaster and journalist announced his career was coming to an end.

While he will continue to host his popular show "Feedback" and will conduct other interviews for WRUS radio, Neagle is permanently stepping away from his duties as morning host.

At 84 years old, Neagle said the decision to retire was mostly because of health concerns.

"I have shingles, and I'm awfully uncomfortable now. I'm dealing with back problems as well. I thought this would be an ideal time to cut back," Neagle said. "It's just an obvious time to wrap it up. My wife died three years ago, and she always said that when it was time to retire—you'll know it. And I know it now."

Neagle joined WRUS on Sept. 1, 1958, after a stint at WKCT-AM in Bowling Green.

Over the course of his career in Russellville, Neagle has interviewed political figures, Pulitzer Prize-winning writers, theologians and newsmakers of all types. He has earned several honors, including his induction into the Kentucky Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2005 and the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 2006.

Neagle said what he will miss most about his time as morning host is bringing the news to Logan County.

"I enjoyed promoting activities in our community and particularly in our African American community," Neagle said. "I really enjoyed breaking news stories. We also put our obituaries right in the front of our newscast. We wanted people to know that information."

In 2002, Neagle partnered with Bill McGinnis and Chris McGinnis to form Logan Radio Inc. and purchase WRUS.

Chris McGinnis will take over the WRUS morning show on an interim basis, while the search begins for a permanent host. He told the Daily News that Neagle was viewed widely across the state as "the voice of Logan County."

"He became the local trusted source for news and information here," Chris McGinnis said. "Don earned the trust of the community. Through the years, Don Neagle was that constant voice that soothed the community. He became that comfort voice."

Chris McGinnis described Neagle as a man of faith who was very educated, addicted to reading books and still a bit shy.

"You will not ever find a more gentle spirit than Don," he said. "He is an individual that cares and wants the best for everyone. He is quick to lift up everyone. It's hard to put into words what a kind spirit he is."

Neagle confirmed his love for reading and said in retirement he hopes to become a night owl who stays up late with his nose in a good book.

He said his love for reading first came from his parents while he grew up in rural Green County. Neagle would go on to be valedictorian of his high school class.

Besides reading, Neagle said he is looking forward to spending more time with his friends and family.

He had two daughters, and his late wife, Vivian Gray Neagle, had two sons. Altogether, Neagle said he has six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Neagle specifically thanked his daughter Lisa Whitt, his granddaughter Anna Haley and the people of Oak Grove Baptist Church for their support during his career.

"I'm looking forward to having a quiet life," Neagle said. "I got all the traveling out of the way with my wife. I'm looking forward to dealing with my pain and living in peace with those who have been just so good to me."

Retired Logan County Circuit and Kentucky Supreme Court Judge William Fuqua said he has been doing an oral history program every Thursday morning with Neagle for over 25 years.

Fuqua told the Daily News that Neagle's knowledge would be "irreplaceable" to Logan County.

"I call him the community morning bulletin board," Fuqua said with a laugh. "He is always accessible. He is a class guy, who loves his job and is dependable in every way I know. He is a keystone of the community. People stop me on the street and ask me about Don. I can't say enough good things about him."

As he now heads into what Neagle hopes is a peaceful retirement, the man who spent more than half a century informing Russellville and Logan County leaves with a word of thanks to his listeners.

"I've enjoyed the support from the people," Neagle said. "For the most part, they have been very kind to me. I love and respect them very much."

ENDING FORCED ARBITRATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I was proud to support and cosponsor S.

2342, the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021. This bill is critically important in supporting survivors who have experienced sexual assault and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Forced arbitration clauses have become increasingly common in employment contracts. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 56.2 percent of private sector, nonunion workers are subject to forced arbitration. That means approximately 60 million workers in the United States are denied the right to have their employment cases heard by a court.

When it comes to matters of sexual assault and sexual harassment, forced arbitration clauses protect predators and prevent survivors from seeking justice in the courts for the wrongs they have experienced.

This practice of forced arbitration is deeply concerning. Employees are often not aware that their employment contracts contain arbitration clauses, and they often do not understand their effect. Scholars have estimated that 98 percent of workers will abandon their legal claims instead of pursuing them through the arbitration process. Employees who choose to arbitrate are then forced to use company-appointed arbitrators and are not able to appeal the decisions.

Even more troubling, forced arbitration clauses have been used to silence survivors of workplace sexual assault and sexual harassment, and that is unacceptable.

This bill will help protect the rights of survivors by allowing courts to invalidate forced arbitration clauses when the case involves sexual assault or harassment. This will ensure that survivors can bring their claims in court if they choose to do so.

I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill, and I am happy to see my colleagues overwhelmingly support it on the floor today.

ENDING FORCED ARBITRATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I want to be clear, there is nothing in the bill requiring any court to adopt new dismissal mechanisms for victims' claims. How and when a case moves forward is by virtue of current existing State or Federal law. There is no new mechanism in this bill to allow for dismissal, and there is no reason to require victims to have to prove a sexual assault or harassment claim prior to trial or have it go back through a forced arbitration process. Civil assault and battery claims are very difficult to prove under especially arcane State laws. But this bill allows any conduct alleging a violation of those laws, and any claims related to such conduct, to move forward together in one case.